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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Mehdi Vaez-Iravani et al.  
Assignee: KLA-Tencor Corporation  
Title: SAMPLE INSPECTION SYSTEM  
Application No.: 10/627,402 Filing Date: July 24, 2003  
Examiner: Unassigned Group Art Unit: 2877  
Docket No.: TNCR.152US7 Conf. No.: 2861

San Francisco, California  
August 18, 2003

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application with which the Preliminary Amendment is being filed, as follows: